

1. A method of developing a latent image on an exposed photographic element, comprising:

- (a) applying a dye precursor to the exposed photographic element;
- (b) applying a developer solution to said photographic element, thereby developing said latent image and forming a dye in said photographic element; and
- (c) scanning said photographic element with light while said latent image is developing.

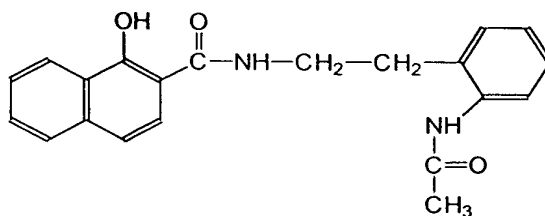
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said dye precursor is applied to said photographic element from a dye precursor solution.

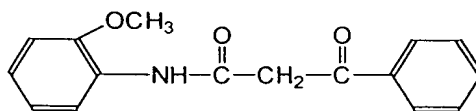
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said dye precursor is provided in said developer solution.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said dye is insoluble in said developer solution.

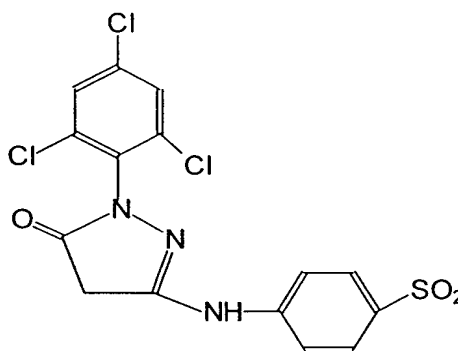
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said dye precursor comprises a coupler, said developer solution comprises a developing agent, said developing agent is oxidized upon development of said latent image, and said dye is imagewise formed in said photographic element by a reaction between said coupler and the oxidized developing agent.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said coupler is chosen from the group consisting of:





and



7. The method of claim 5 wherein said developing agent comprises an aromatic primary amine.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said developing agent is chosen from the group consisting of:
- 4-Amino-3-methyl-N-ethyl-N-( $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl)-aniline sulfate;
  - 2-Amino-5-diethylaminotoluene Monohydrochloride; and
  - 4-Amino-3-methyl-N-ethyl-N-( $\beta$ -methanesulfonamidoethyl)-m-toluidine sesquisulfate monohydrate.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein said scanning step comprises directing light at a first surface of said photographic element and detecting at least one of light reflected away from said first surface and light transmitted through said photographic element.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said scanning step further comprises directing light at a second surface of said photographic element and detecting light reflected away from said second surface.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein both light reflected away from said first surface and light transmitted through said photographic element are detected.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said scanning is performed at a first predetermined time after application of said developer solution.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said scanning is performed at multiple predetermined times after application of said developer solution.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said light comprises infrared light.

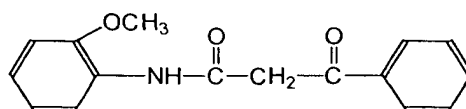
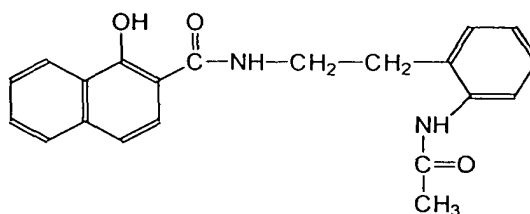
15. A method of electronically developing a latent image on exposed film, comprising:

- 5           (a) applying a developer solution to the film thereby developing the latent image on the film and imagewise forming a dye in the film; and
- (b) scanning said film during development with light of a wavelength chosen such that said dye attenuates said light.

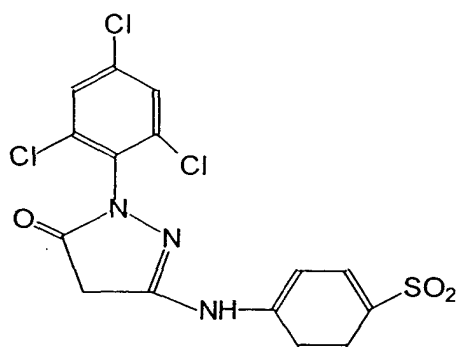
16. The method of claim 15, wherein said developer solution comprises a developing agent and a dye precursor.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said dye precursor comprises a coupler which reacts with oxidized developing agent to form said dye.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said coupler is chosen from the group consisting of:



and



19. The method of claim 16 wherein said developing agent comprises an aromatic primary amine.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein said scanning step comprises directing light at a first surface of said film and detecting at least one of light reflected away from said first surface and light transmitted through said film.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein said scanning step comprises directing light at a first and second surfaces of said film, and detecting light reflected away from said first and second surfaces and light transmitted through said film.
22. The method of claim 15, wherein said film is scanned at a multiple times during development.
23. The method of claim 15, wherein said light comprises infrared light.
24. A digital film processing system for use in electronic film development, comprising:
- (a) a dye precursor supply station configured for applying a dye precursor solution to a film;
  - (b) a developer supply station configured for applying a developer solution to the film; and
  - (c) at least one scanning station for scanning the film with light after application of the dye precursor solution and the developer solution.
25. An aqueous dye precursor solution, consisting essentially of a coupler capable of forming an infrared-absorbing dye.
26. A developed photographic film comprising a plurality of emulsion layers, each of said layers having a silver and dye image, wherein the same dye is present in each of said layers.
27. The developed photographic film of claim 26, wherein said dye is an infrared absorbing dye.